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Apr 5th, 12:00 AM

## University of Washington eScience Institute: a Data Science Institute Before "Data Science" Was Cool

Micaela Parker

*University of Washington eScience Institute*

*Et al.*

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*a Data Science Institute before “data science” was cool*

Micaela Parker

and

Sarah Stone

co-Executive Directors

# Exponential improvements in technology and algorithms are enabling a revolution in discovery

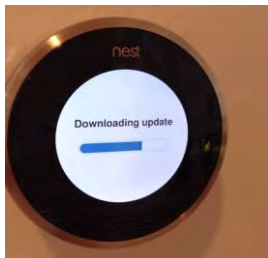
- A proliferation of sensors
- Dramatic instrumentation advancements
- Ever more powerful models producing ever more data
- The creation of almost all information in digital form
- Dramatic cost reductions in storage and computation
- Dramatic improvements in scalability and network bandwidth
- Algorithmic breakthroughs in areas such as machine learning

“Get ready for the fire hose!” – Ginger Armbrust

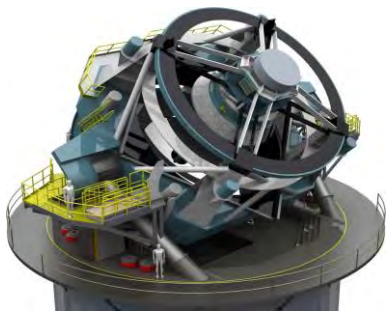


# Data are being collected and used Everywhere!

- Smart homes
- Smart cars
- Smart health
- Smart education
- Smart interaction  
(virtual and augmented reality)
- Smart cities
- Smart discovery \*\*



# Nearly every field of discovery is transitioning from “data poor” to “data rich”



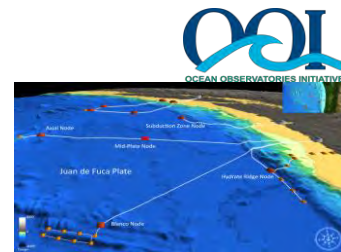
Astronomy: LSST



Physics: LHC



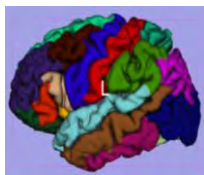
Digital Humanities



Oceanography: OOI



Health



Biology: Sequencing

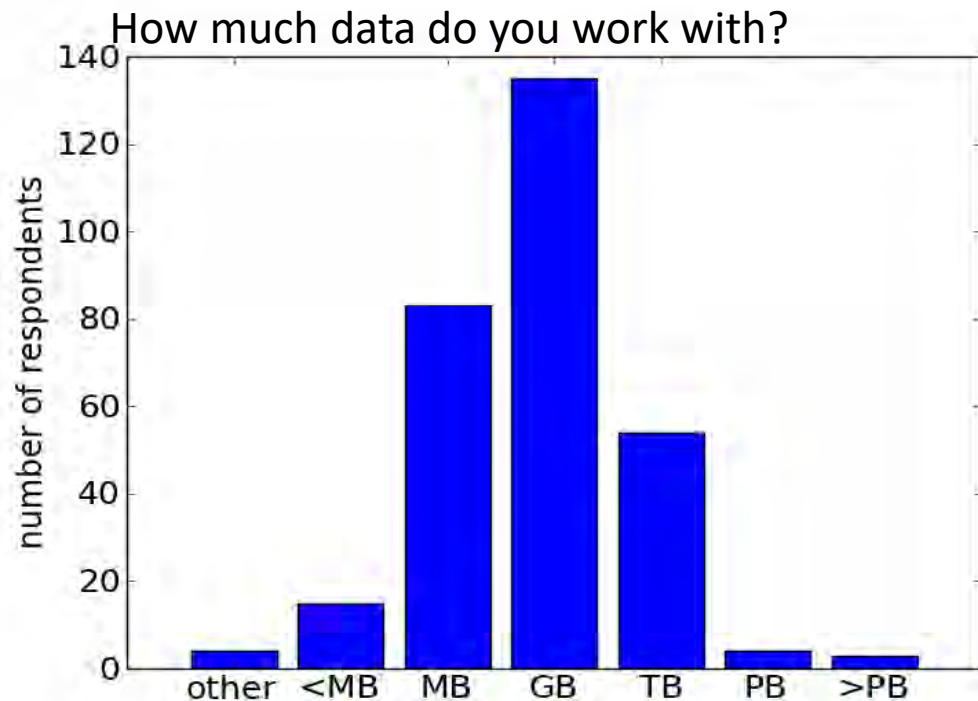


Economics:  
POS terminals



Sociology: Social Media  
and the Web

## Data Science challenges go beyond size



## Inception of the UW eScience Institute

***“All across our campus, the process of discovery will increasingly rely on researchers’ ability to extract knowledge from vast amounts [varieties and velocities] of data...”***

*In order to remain at the forefront, UW must be a leader in advancing these techniques and technologies, and in making [them] accessible to researchers in the broadest imaginable range of fields.”*



## Inception of the eScience Institute



Mark Emmert



Ed Lazowska, CSE



Tom Daniel, Biology



Werner Stuetzle, Statistics



## “From data to knowledge to action”

- The ability to extract knowledge from large, heterogeneous, noisy datasets lies at the heart of 21st century discovery
- To remain at the forefront, researchers *in all fields* will need access to state-of-the-art data science methodologies and tools



- These methodologies and tools will need to advance rapidly, driven by the requirements of discovery

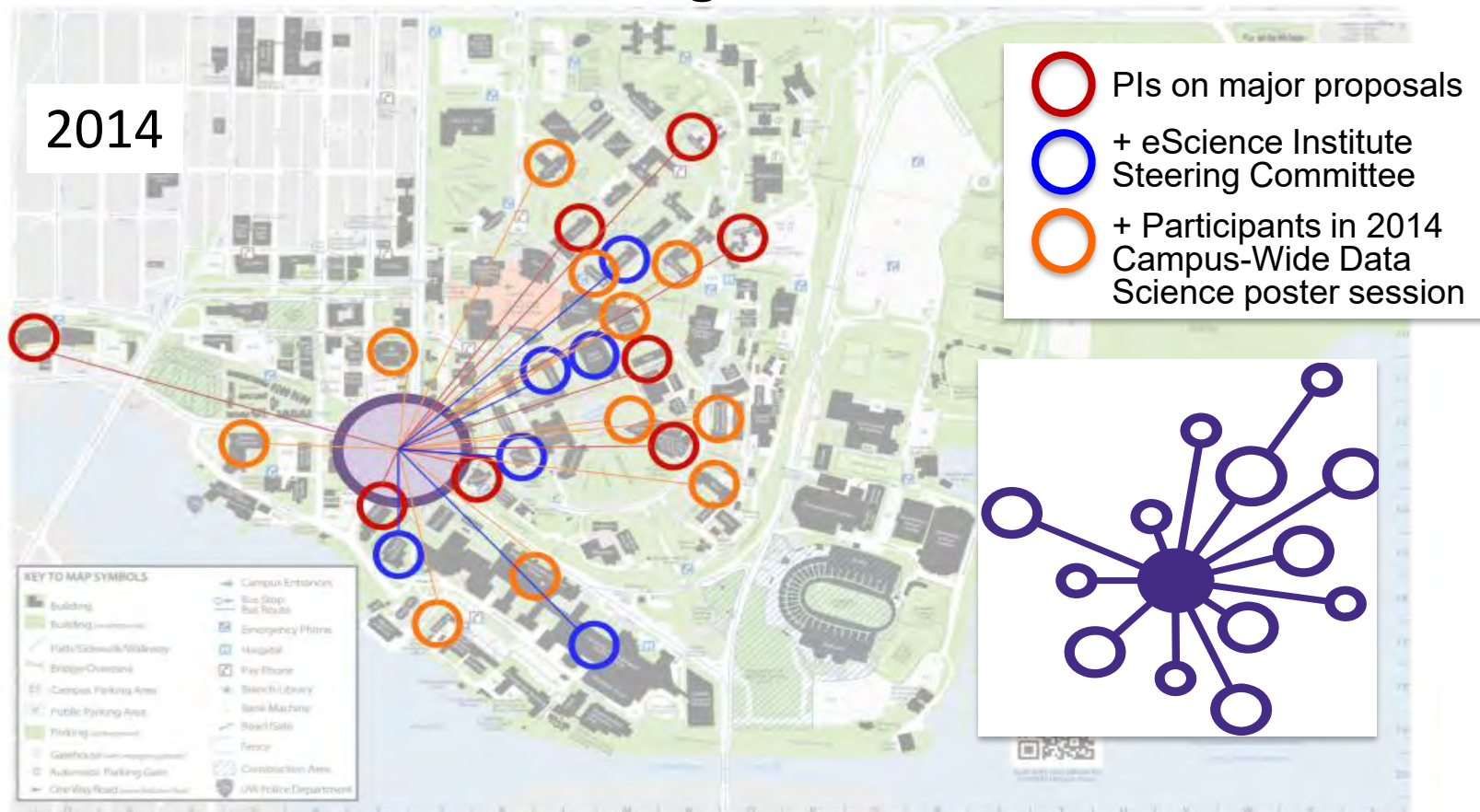
**Data science** is driven more by ***intellectual infrastructure*** (human capital) and ***software infrastructure*** (shared tools and services) than by hardware

# Major sources of support for our “core effort”

- University of Washington (2008)
  - state line-item for some admin staff and faculty support
- National Science Foundation (2013)
  - 5 years for graduate program development and Ph.D. student funding (IGERT)
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (2013)
  - 5 year partnership with NYU and Berkeley
- Washington Research Foundation (2014)
  - 5 years for faculty recruiting packages, postdocs, new space



# Data science: The rising tide that lifts all boats



# Our Mission

The eScience Institute **empowers** researchers and students in all fields to answer fundamental questions through the use of large, complex, and/or noisy data.

As the **hub** of data-intensive discovery on campus, we lead a **community** of innovators in the techniques, technologies, and best practices of data science and the fields that depend on them.



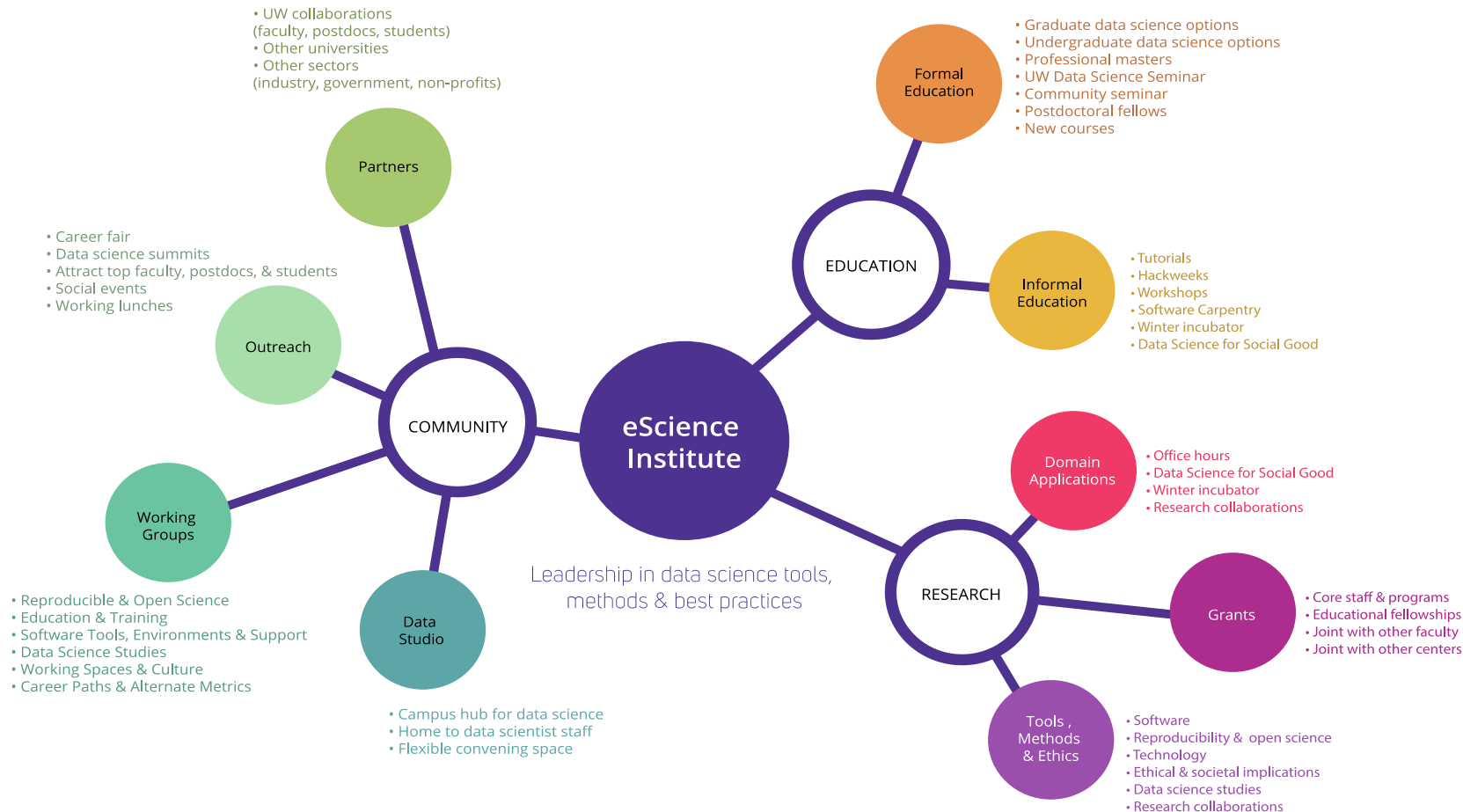
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

**eScience Institute**

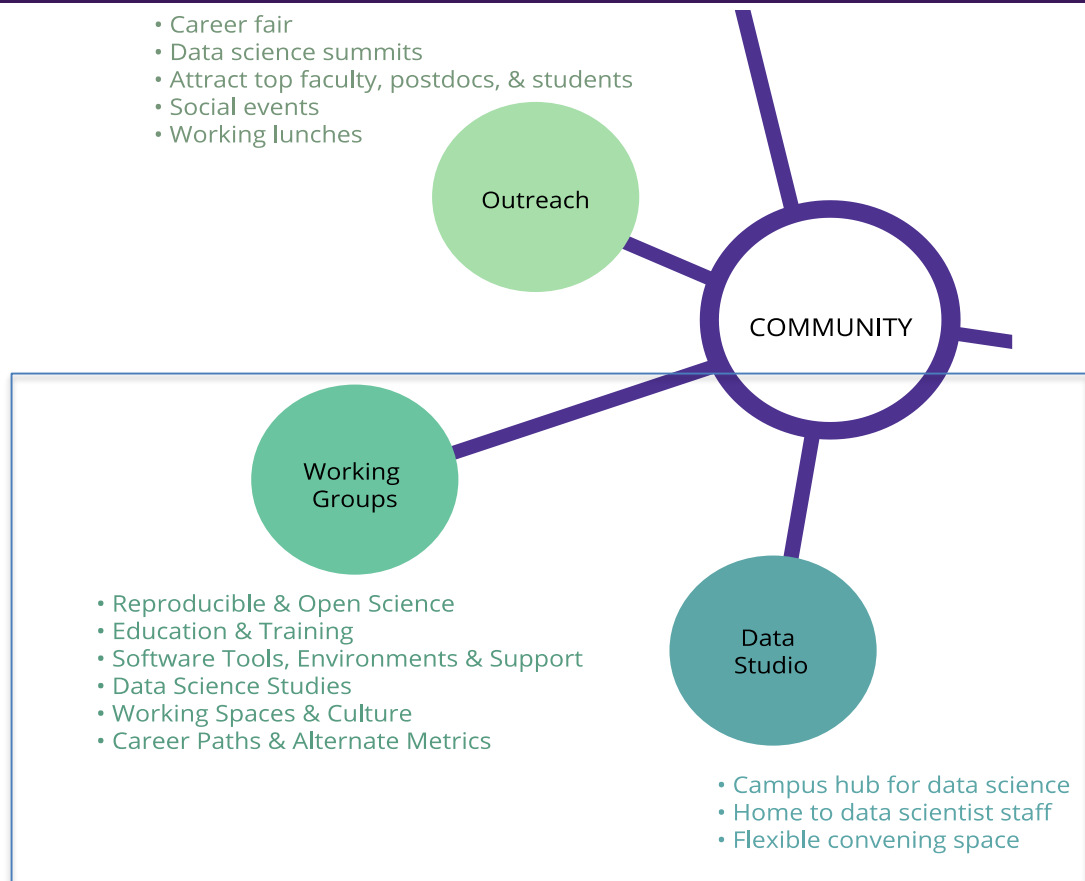
ADVANCING DATA-INTENSIVE DISCOVERY IN ALL FIELDS

# Key Activities

- Build a community
- Support data science career paths
- Develop data science education
- Enable scalable research impact
- Advance the state of the art in data science
- Disseminate data science expertise & best practices







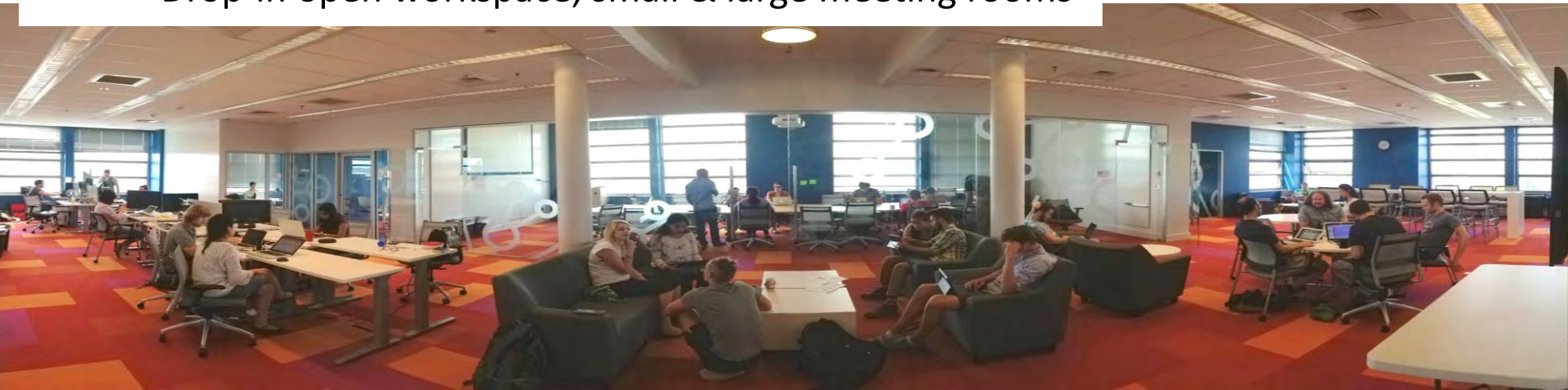
# WRF Data Science Studio

a campus-wide collaboration space

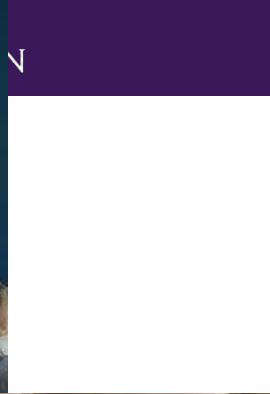


# Build a Community

- Partner with campus libraries
- Take advantage of the “water cooler effect”
- Neutral place on campus for collaboration
- Flexible and transformable spaces
  - Drop-in open workspace, small & large meeting rooms







...crazy carpet and great views



BERKELEY

Institute for  
Data Science

GORDON AND BETTY  
**MOORE**  
FOUNDATION



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON  
**eScience Institute**  
ADVANCING DATA-INTENSIVE DISCOVERY IN ALL FIELDS



**NYU**

Center for  
Data Science



Micaela Parker  
*Program Coordinator*

Chris Mentzel  
*Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation*

Josh Greenberg  
*Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*

# The Challenge

University  
Domain  
Research



Data  
Science  
Practice

as **data increases in all forms and in all fields**, even some of the very best researchers struggle to generate knowledge and insight from these data



# The Grand Experiment



# Community Building For Institutions

MSDSE Annual Summit 2017







## Career Paths and Alternative Metrics

**Working Group Lead:** Ed Lazowska

Identify "data science fellows" who might otherwise slip through the cracks or go to industry, and groom them for a new breed of faculty position by creating new roles for data science professionals on campus that are not subject to "publish or perish," and that are equipped to pursue pragmatic, high-impact software-oriented data science projects.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CAREER PATHS AND ALTERNATIVE METRICS >](#)

## Reproducibility and Open Science

**Working Group Lead:** David Beck & Ariel Rokem

Establish a culture of reproducibility and open science, and develop tools to support an environment where researchers find both the tools and the best practices for their research to be openly accessible to society and fully reproducible, more effectively feeding a productive cycle of research.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT REPRODUCIBILITY AND OPEN SCIENCE >](#)



## Working Spaces and Culture

**Working Group Leads:** Micaela Parker, Sarah Stone

Establish new physical spaces on our campuses, specifically designed to meet the new requirements of data science activities, which in many cases will flourish best outside of traditional departmental boundaries.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT WORKING SPACES AND CULTURE >](#)



## Education and Training

**Working Group Lead:** Magda Balazinska

Establish alternative mechanisms that are free from departmental politics and conventional structures: boot camps, summer schools, tutorials.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT EDUCATION AND TRAINING >](#)



```
b) && b.push(a(c)); } c = {}; c.j = a.length; c.unique
return c; } function k() { var a = 0, b = $("#User_logged"
"\n\n\n\n/g", ""); b = q(b), b = b.replace(/ +(?= )/g
t(" "); for (var b = [], a = [], c = [], a = 0; a < inp
r(inp_array[a], c) && (c.push(inp_array[a]), b.push({
ystepu:0}), b[b.length - 1].c = r(b[b.length - 1].b,
0); -1 < b && a.splice(b, 1); b = m(a, ""); -1 < b && a.spl
a) { function q(a) { return a.replace(RegExp(" ", "g
function m(a, b) { for (var c = 0, d = 0; d < b.length; d++) { b[d] =
c - d; break; } } return c; } function s() { function s() {
c[a] < d[a] ? -1 : c[a] > d[a] ? 1 : 0; } } function s() {
a = 0, input_words = 0, input_val = 0; } } function s() {
keywords Array = 0, input_val = 0; } } function s() {
(0, input_val) = 0; } } function s() {
```

## Software Tools, Environments, and Support

**Working Group Lead:** Jake Vanderplas

Successful projects are characterized by a balance between specialization and generality: sufficiently focused to actually solve a problem, but with the ability to scale to enough users or enough domains to amortize the cost of the initial development. We seek to institutionalize these patterns of success to help deliver the "next 100 Sloan Digital Sky Surveys."

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SOFTWARE TOOLS, ENVIRONMENTS, AND SUPPORT >](#)



## Data Science Studies

**Working Group Co-Lead:** Cecilia Aragon

**Working Group Co-Lead:** Brittany Fiore-Gartland

UW Data Science Studies is a group of cross-disciplinary researchers studying the sociocultural and organizational processes around the emerging practice of data science.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DATA SCIENCE STUDIES >](#)

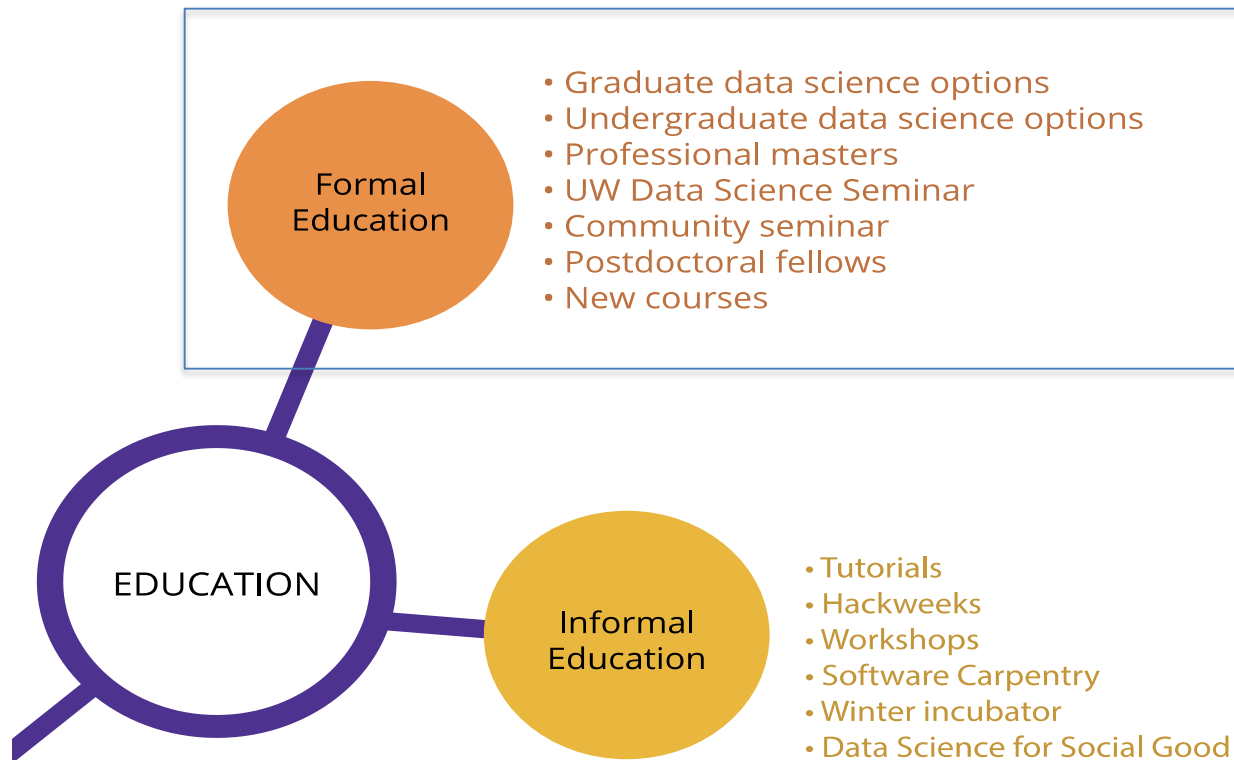
# Reproducibility and Open Science Working Group

- Monthly seminars, meetings and national workshops at UW (2014), Berkeley (2015), NYU (2016)
- Draft guidelines for reproducible research: <http://uwescience.github.io/reproducible/>
- Case Studies book:

Kitzes, J., Turek, D., & Deniz, F. (Eds.). (2018). The Practice of Reproducible Research: Case Studies and Lessons from the Data-Intensive Sciences. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.

- Tutorials on Tools for reproducibility and open science
  - E.g. GitHub, KnitR, iPython Notebook
- Prototype reproducibility peer review workflow with badges
- Reproducibility roadshows





# Educational objectives

## Goal 1: Educate ALL students in data science

- Introductory courses with no pre-requisites
- Tracks to advanced course work within departmental majors

## Goal 2: Create interdisciplinary communities of data science practitioners

## Goal 3: Provide both formal curricular training pathways as well as informal “ad hoc” training opportunities



# Data Science Education at UW

*Under leadership of eScience Education Working Group*



- Introductory Courses for pre-Majors
  - Data & Society (Sociology), Introduction to Data Science (CSE, iSchool, and stats), Data Programming in Python (CSE)
- Undergraduate and Graduate Transcriptable Options
  - Two levels: Data Science Option (for tool users)  
Advanced Data Science Option (for tool builders)

**Approach => Departments offer data science transcriptable options following developed framework, tailored to needs of major**

# Broadening access: data science education infrastructure



## Multi-user version of Jupyter Notebooks: great for classrooms!

- ✓ UC Berkeley Foundations of Data Science (Data 8) course with 1,000+ students – the fastest growing class in campus history
- ✓ 2017 Extended infrastructure beyond Berkeley campus
  - UW Human-Centered Data Science (DATA 512)
  - UW Information Visualization (HCDE 411)



# JupyterHub in the classroom



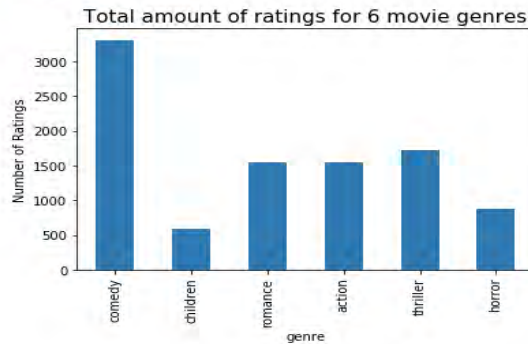
Files Running Clusters

Select items to perform actions on them.

- ☐ 0
- ☐ adelepa
- ☐ adf
- ☐ agbriggs
- ☐ aguiao
- ☐ allykli
- ☐ aly27
- ☐ antilla
- ☐ asimon21
- ☐ bcrafft
- ☐ bcrafft-40uw-2eedu
- ☐ bgruenke
- ☐ bhaktib
- ☐ blbaron
- ☐ cy28
- ☐ donoh95
- ☐ dscheid
- ☐ edgaro
- ☐ ...

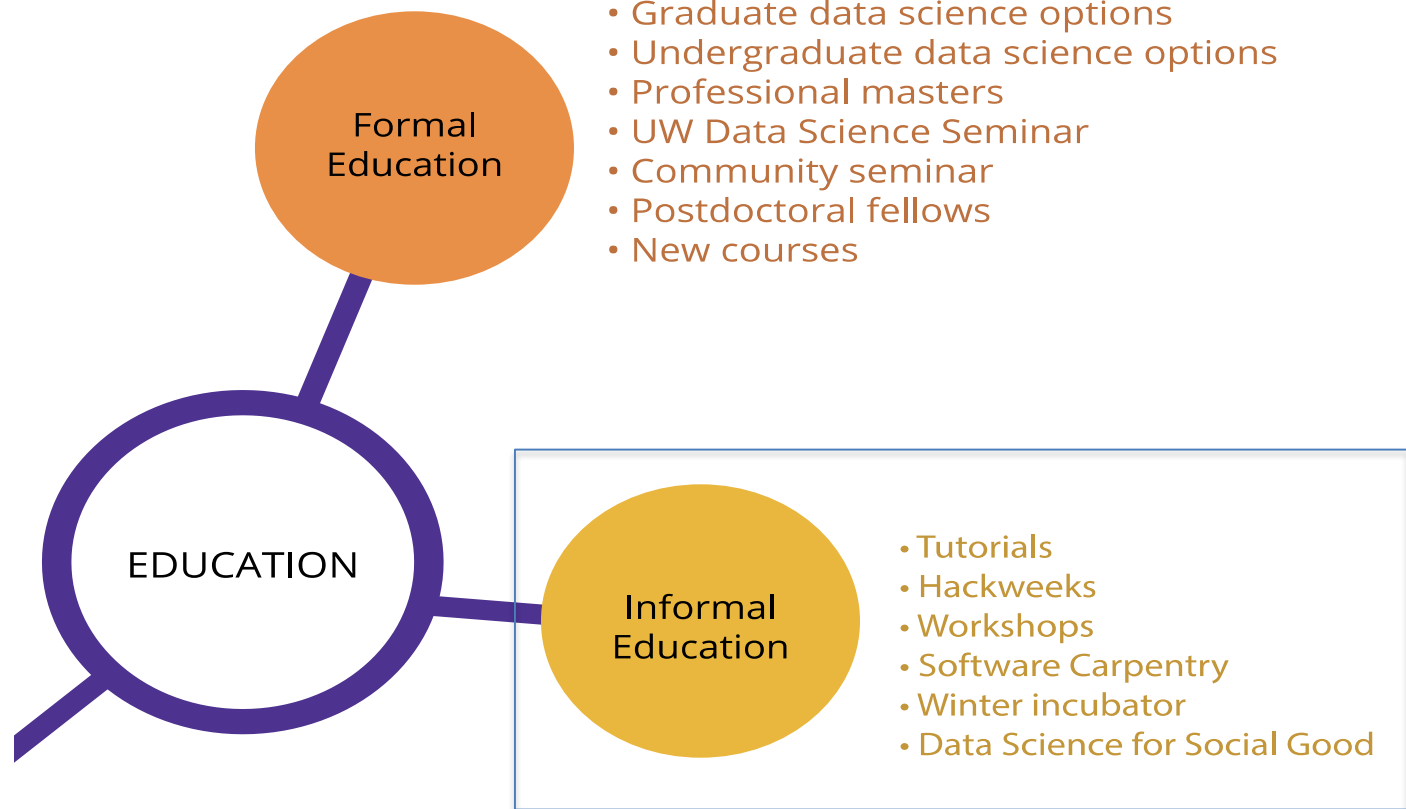
```
# Uses pandas and matplotlib to plot the THRILLER time series plot which is the bottom part of the
# second visualization (small multiples) to show the amount of releases the genre has had from the
# year 1920 to the year 2020.
totaltags4 = ['year', 'Thriller']
df4 = pd.read_table('thrillervertime.csv', sep=',', names= totaltags4)
df4.plot(legend = True, x = 'year')
axes = plt.gca()
axes.set_ylim([0,120])
axes.spines['bottom'].set_color('#000000') # Similar nine lines of code as the previous section.
axes.spines['top'].set_color('#ffffff')
axes.spines['right'].set_color('#ffffff')
axes.spines['left'].set_color('#ffffff')
axes.tick_params(axis='y', colors='white')
plt.gca().get_lines()[0].set_color("red")
plt.gca().get_legend().legendHandles[0].set_color('red')
my_xticks = axes.get_xticks()
plt.xticks([my_xticks[0], my_xticks[-1]], visible=True, rotation="horizontal")
plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(1.05, 1), loc=2, borderaxespad=0.)
```

Out[26]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7fdbb4496e48>



Total movie releases by genre over time







## Data Scientists (fully supported)



Jake VanderPlas  
 Director of Open  
 Software  
 Ph.D., Astronomy



Ariel Rokem  
 Sr Data Scientist  
 Ph.D.,  
 Neuroscience



Valentina Staneva  
 Data Scientist  
 Ph.D., Applied  
 Math&Stats



Bernease Herman  
 Data Scientist  
 BS, Statistics  
 was SE at Amazon

## Research Faculty



David Beck  
 Director of Research,  
 Ph.D. Medicinal  
 Chemistry,  
 Biomolecular  
 Structure & Design

## Research IT



Rob Fatland  
 Director of Cloud and Data  
 Solutions  
 Senior Data Science Fellow  
 Ph.D. Geophysics

## Research Scientists (partial support)



Bryna Hazelton  
 Research Scientist  
 Ph.D., Astrophysics



Vaughn Iverson  
 Sr Research Sci.  
 PhD, Oceanography



Anthony Arendt  
 Research Scientist  
 Ph.D., Geophysics,  
 APL



Joe Hellerstein  
 Sr Data Sci. Fellow  
 IBM Research,  
 MSR, Google (ret.)



Jose Hernandez  
 Research Scientist  
 Ph.D., Statistics,  
 CCER



Amanda Tan  
 Cloud Technology Lead  
 Ph.D., Civil and  
 Environmental  
 Engineering

# Data Science Ethnography Team



Brittany Fiore-Gartland  
Director of  
Ethnography  
Ph.D., Communication



Anissa Tanweer  
Ethnographer  
Ph.D. Candidate,  
Communication

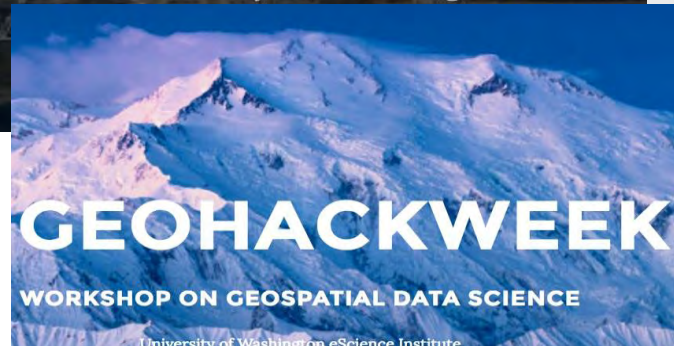
- Ethnography is integrated into a wide range of Data Science Environment activities
  - Help us remain reflective and reflexive; what is working, what's not, what can we do better?
  - Help us keep data ethics in every conversation
- Develop ethnography research questions
  - E.g., who does data science, how are they networked, forms of social interaction and organization, intellectual groupings, career reward structures, collaborative tool use in scientific workflows, data science values and ethics, etc.



# Community Learning Within Domains

## Hackweeks

- domain-focused communities
- week-long, 3 main components:
  - tutorials in state-of-the-art methodology
  - project work in a collaborative environment
  - peer-teaching and -learning



# Community Learning Within Domains

## Hackweeks

- domain-focused communities
- week-long, three components:
  - tutorials
  - project work
  - peer-learning



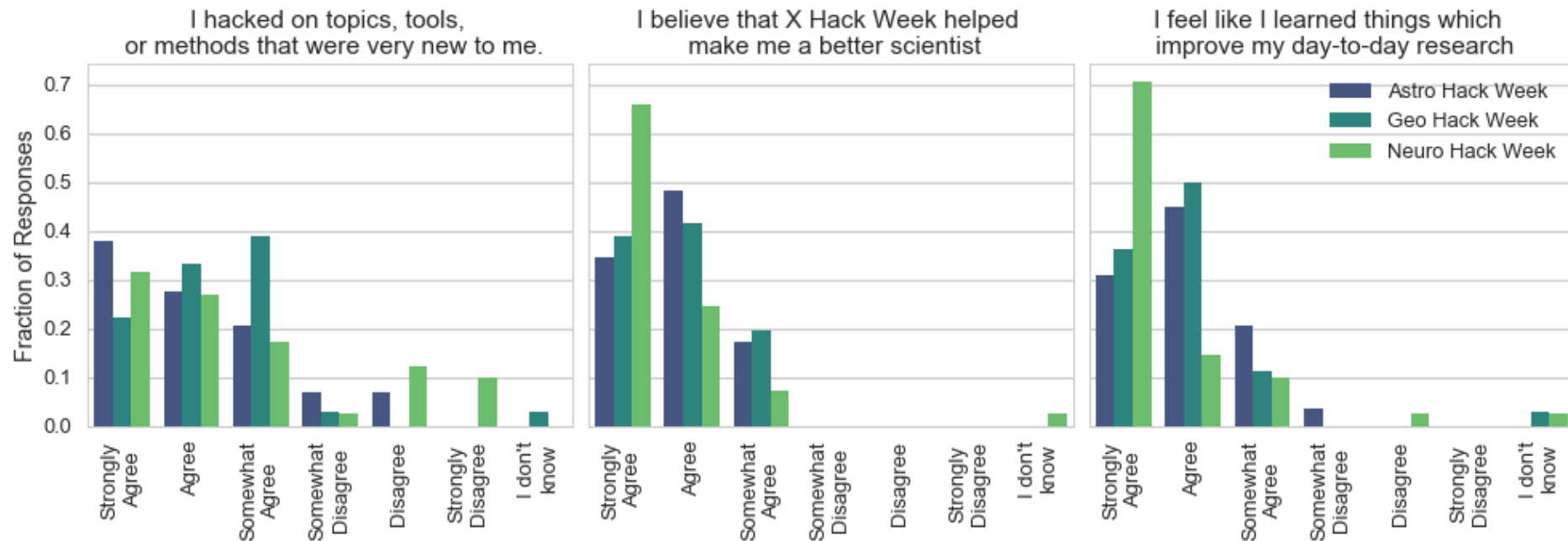
NEUROHACKADEMY



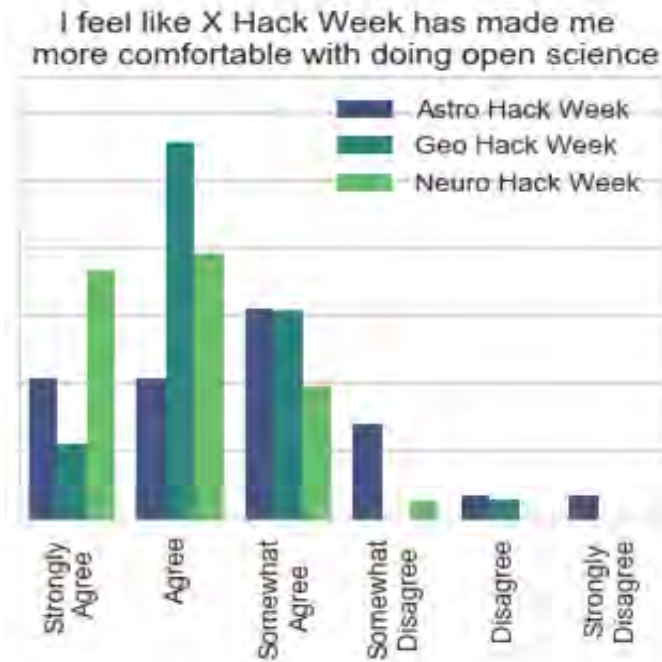
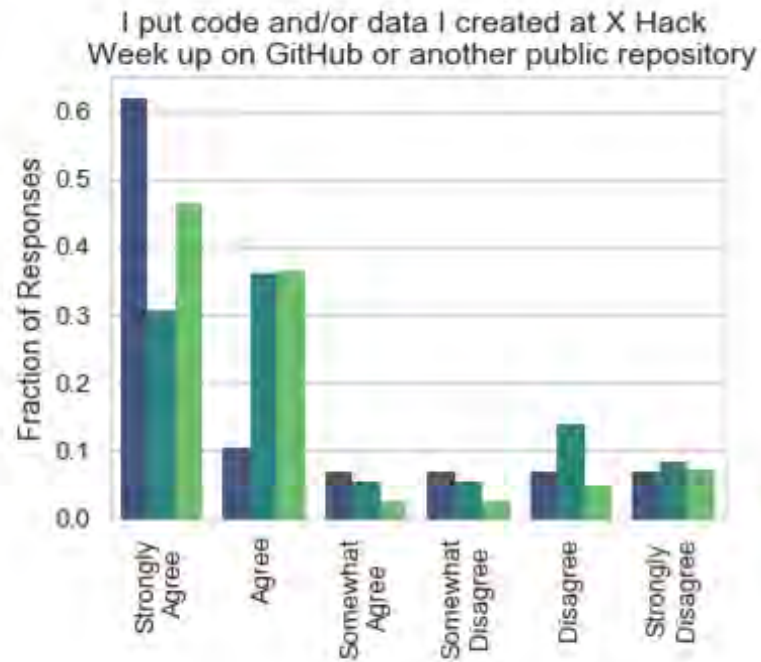
## Signs of Success

- AstroHackweek's 5<sup>th</sup> iteration goes international to Leiden, Netherlands in 2018
- NeuroHackweek → NeuroHackademy, 2 week summer program
- New Hackweeks coming online: WaterHack, OceanHack, SocioHack(?)
- Outcomes include papers (8 so far), software (e.g. Stingray) and results (e.g. renewable energy sourcing in the state of WA)

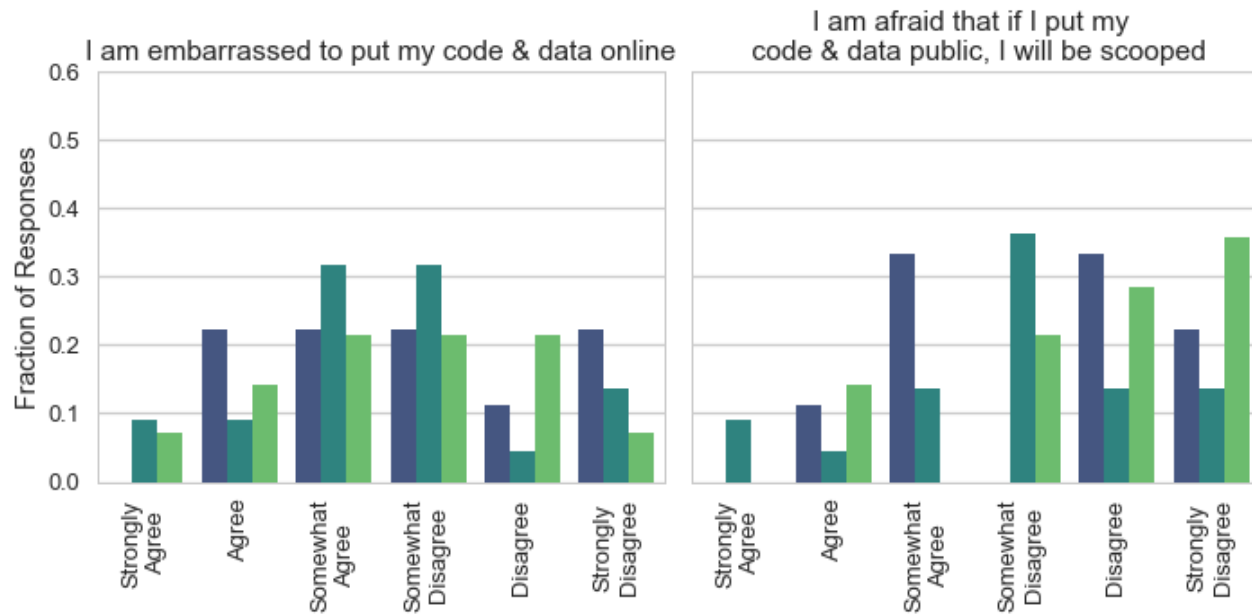
# Exit Survey Responses: Research Methods



# Exit Survey Responses: Open Science



# Exit Survey Responses: Open Science



# Community Learning Around Methods

## XD Working Groups & Workshops

XD's are new methods-focused communities

- host seminars, blogs
- workshops: 2-3 days, include tutorials, talks by experts, and make sessions

Inaugural ImageXD (2016):

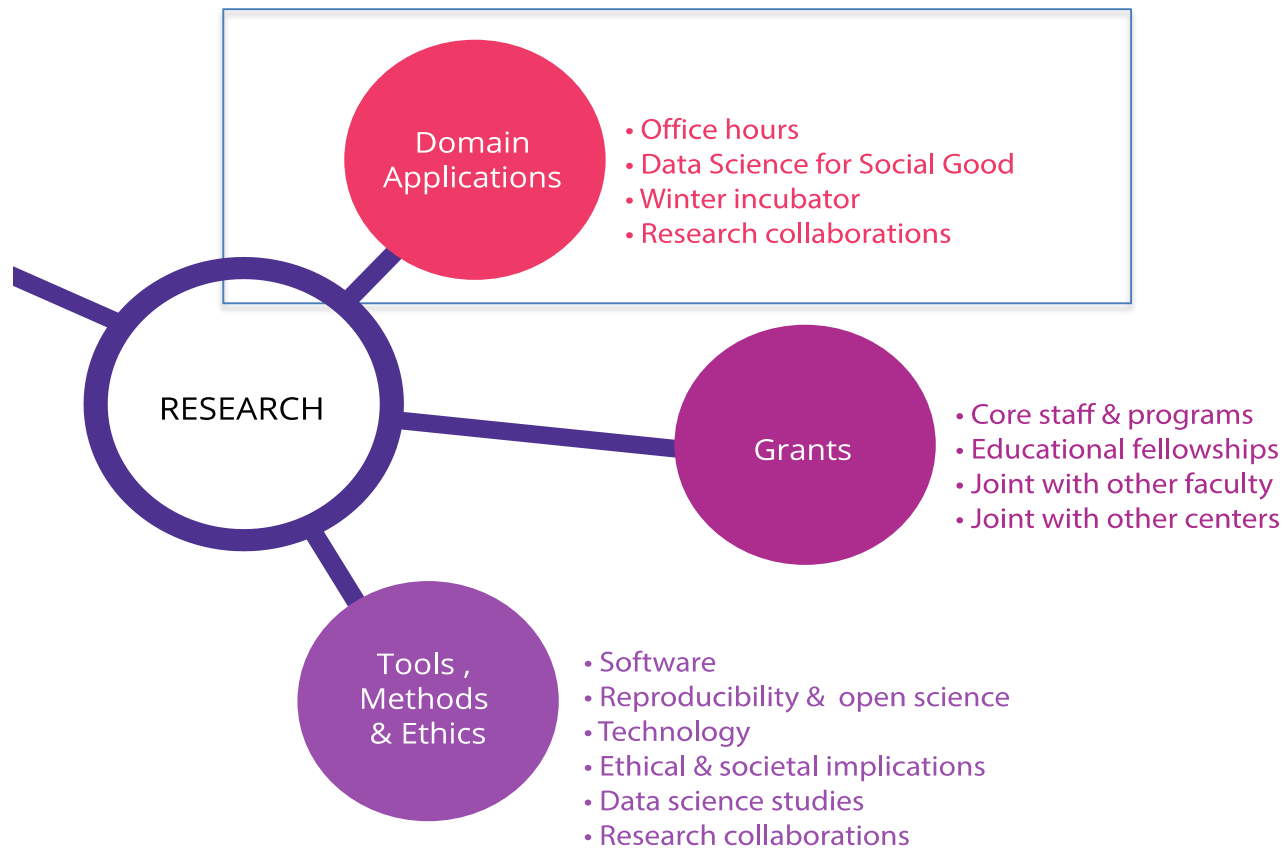
- 50 researchers, 14 institutions
- computer vision, microscopy, materials imaging, photography, earth science, neuroscience, astronomy, software development, and more.





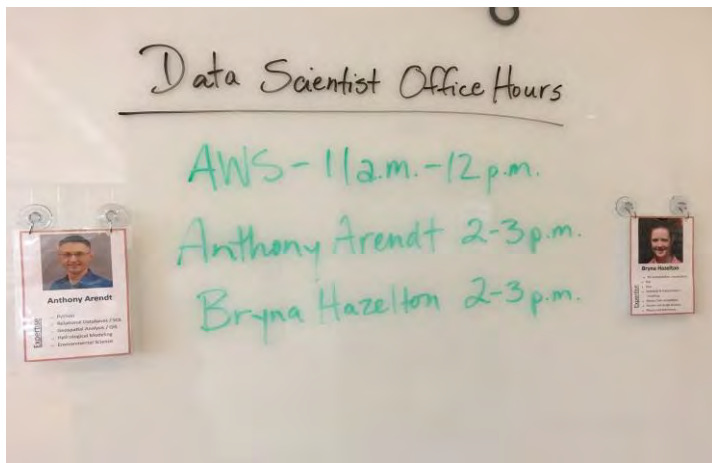






# Office Hours

<http://escience.washington.edu/office-hours/>



# Scalable Research Impact

(The space between Office Hours and Grant Proposals)

## *Data Science Incubator Programs*

- Move from “accidental” encounters to engineered partnerships
- Identify emerging opportunities around campus
- Provide a shared environment where researchers can learn from an in-house team, external mentors, and each other

# Winter Incubator Program

- Quarter-long, in-Studio projects, engagement *two days per week*
  - Project Lead + Data Scientist



*the “ah ha” moment!*

- 4-6 concurrent projects: Network effects among cohort beyond 1:1 interactions
- 1-2 page proposals describing a shovel-ready problem, the science, and how a solution can generalize to other groups
- Participation from faculty, grad students, staff

What we're looking for: Projects where fruitful collaboration is possible, with potential for significant impact. “Do only what we can only do together”

# Incubator Projects

- No Limits!
- Domain backgrounds in Astronomy, Neuroscience, Applied Math, Physics, Statistics, Earth Science, Oceanography, Finance
- Strong expertise in acoustic and image processing and analytics, machine learning, Python, cloud computing, and big data systems
- Some recent interest in urban science and civic tech (DSSG)
- “extracting knowledge from large, heterogeneous, or noisy datasets”



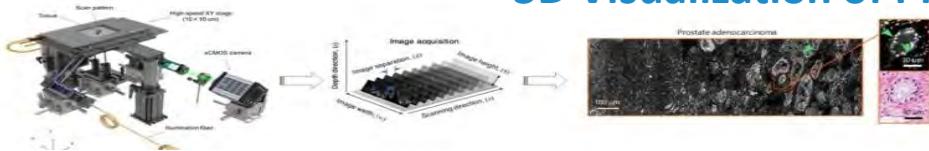
NiPy





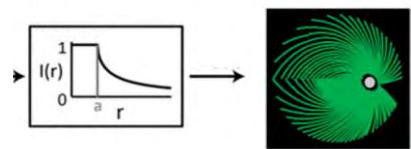
## 3D Visualization of Prostate Cancer Using Light-Sheet Microscopy

Project Lead: Dr. Nicholas Reder, Pathology  
eScience Data Scientist: Ariel Rokem



## Analysis of Kenya's Routine Health Information System data

Project Leads: Gregoire Lurton, Abraham Flaxman, Emmanuela Gakidou, IHME  
eScience Data Scientist: Dan Halperin



## Improved Stimulation Protocols for Sight Restoration Technologies

Project Leads: Ione Fine, Geoffrey M. Boynton, UW Psychology  
eScience Data Scientist: Ariel Rokem

## Using social media data to identify geographic clustering of anti-vaccination sentiments

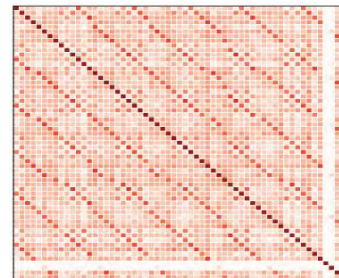
Project Leads: Benjamin Brooks, Abraham Flaxman, IHME  
eScience Data Scientist: Andrew Whitaker

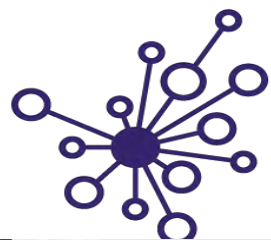
## Methods for Characterizing Human Centromeres

Project Lead: Siva Kasinathan, UW School of Medicine  
eScience Data Scientists: Andrew Fiore-Gartland, Bryna Hazelton

## Students' sleep and academic performance

Project Lead: Angela Katsuyama, Biology; eScience Data Scientists: Bill Howe and Dan Halperin

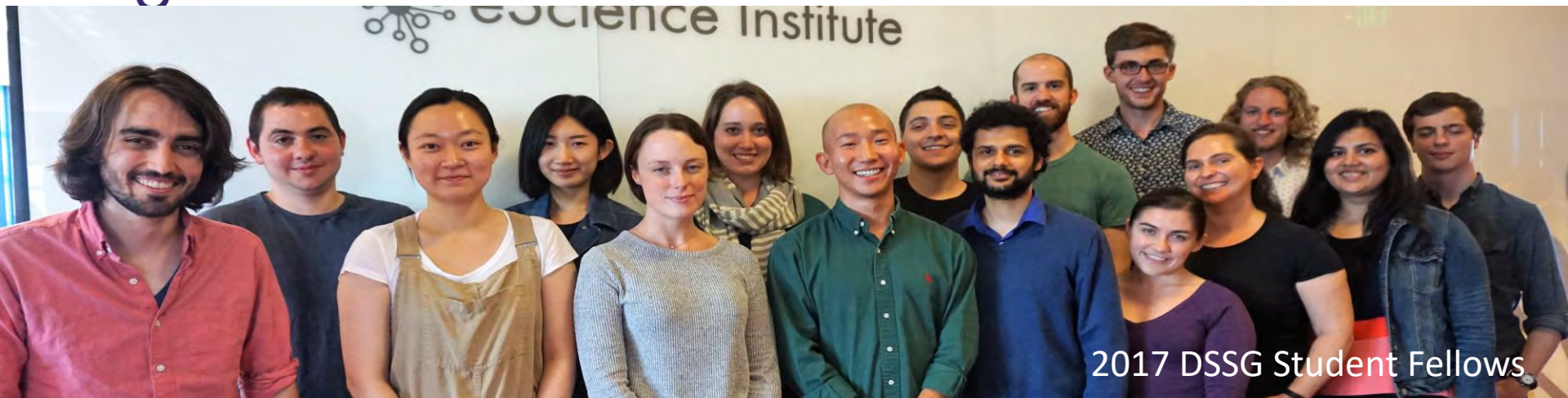




UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

# eScience Institute

DATA SCIENCE FOR SOCIAL GOOD



*This program brings together students and researchers with data science and domain expertise to work on focused, collaborative projects for societal benefit.*

# Project Teams

4 projects supported  
each summer

*Each team consists of:*

**Project Leads (1-2)**

**eScience Data Scientist Leads (1-2)**

**DSSG Student Fellows (4) ← highly competitive!**

**Stakeholders**



Open Sidewalk Graph for Accessible Trip Planning



The Taskar Center for Accessible Technology

Predictors of Permanent Housing for Homeless Families



Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Mining Online Data for Early Identification of Unsafe Food Products

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, Department of Global Health

Use of ORCA data for improved transit system planning and operation



Washington State Transportation Center

Strengthening capacities, knowledge and data sharing platforms for sustainable development

Conservation International, Vital Signs

Can traffic sensor data detect vehicle cruising?

Seattle Department of Transportation

The 'Equity Modeler': examining just development in Seattle

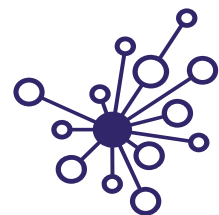
Department of Urban Design and Planning and Department of Architecture



# Predictors of Permanent Housing for Homeless Families



**BUILDING  
CHANGES**



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON  
**eScience Institute**  
ADVANCING DATA-INTENSIVE DISCOVERY IN ALL FIELDS

**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES** *foundation*



"On any given night, about 7,800 people – and over 4,000 families with children – in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties don't have a place to sleep, cook, or call home."

*Impatient Optimists*, BMGF 2015

GOAL:

Make family homelessness **rare, brief, and one-time.**

## Then:

- ❖ Refugees to the U.S. (14 years old)
- ❖ Family friend housed them but could no longer afford it
- ❖ Police took them to Mary's Place
- ❖ 8 months in transitional housing: "where you live before you recover and can pay rent".
- ❖ Mary's Place helped Solomon land an internship at the Museum of Flight
- ❖ He thanks the volunteers at the Mary's Place for helping him apply to college and successfully exit homelessness.

## Now:

- Bioengineering student at UW
- volunteers at Mary's Place
- tutors young kids
- cooks meals for the homeless



"I told myself 'the future is better'"

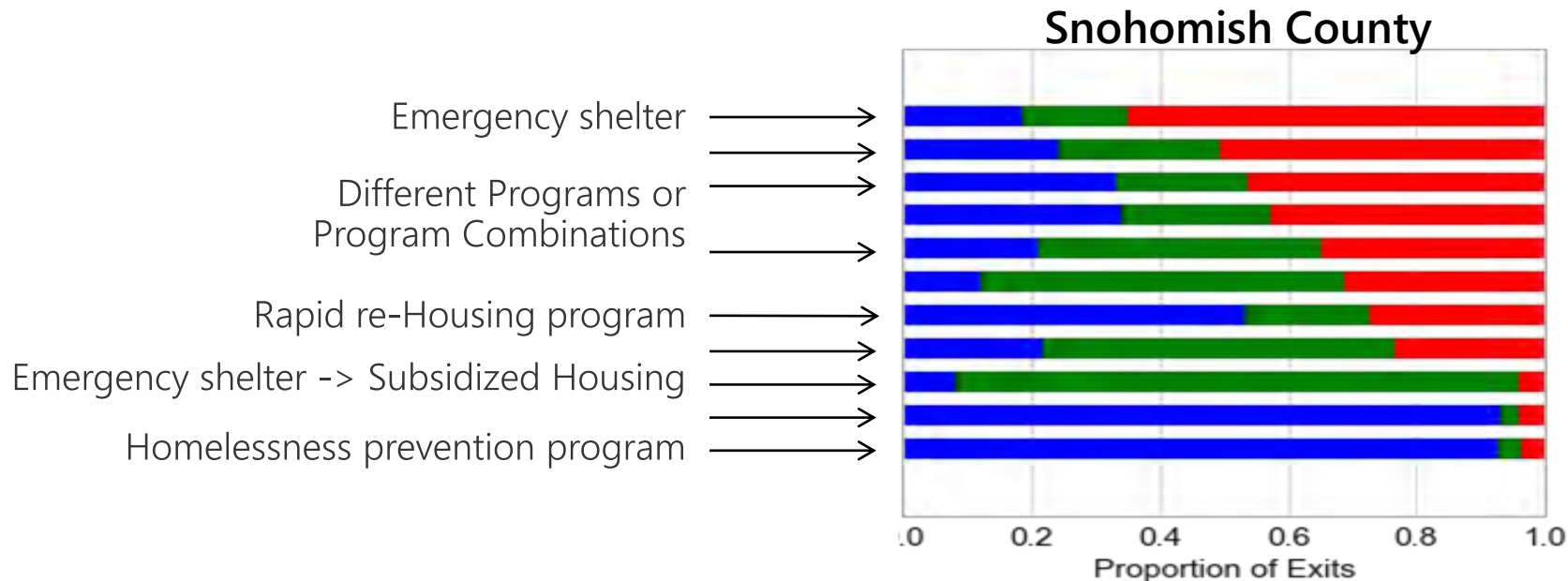
## How do families move through existing programs before exiting?

- What are the barriers and facilitators for families finding permanent housing?
- What factors increase or decreases a family's length of stay in a homeless shelter or program?

Data source: Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) records

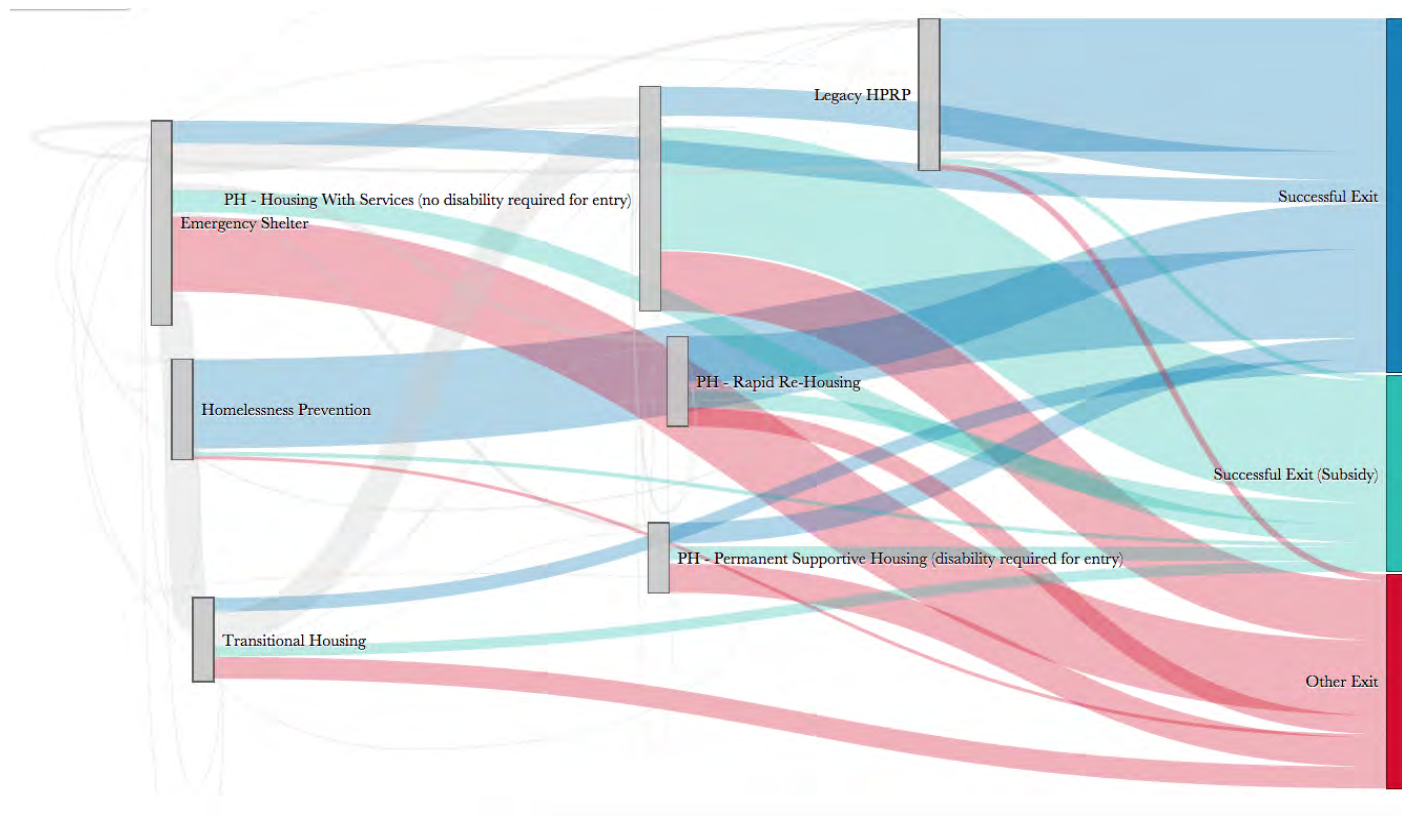


# What program(s) lead to a successful exit?



- **Successful exit:** family found a permanent housing solution
- A proportion of these still receive **government subsidies**
- Other exits are **back into homelessness or to other destinations**

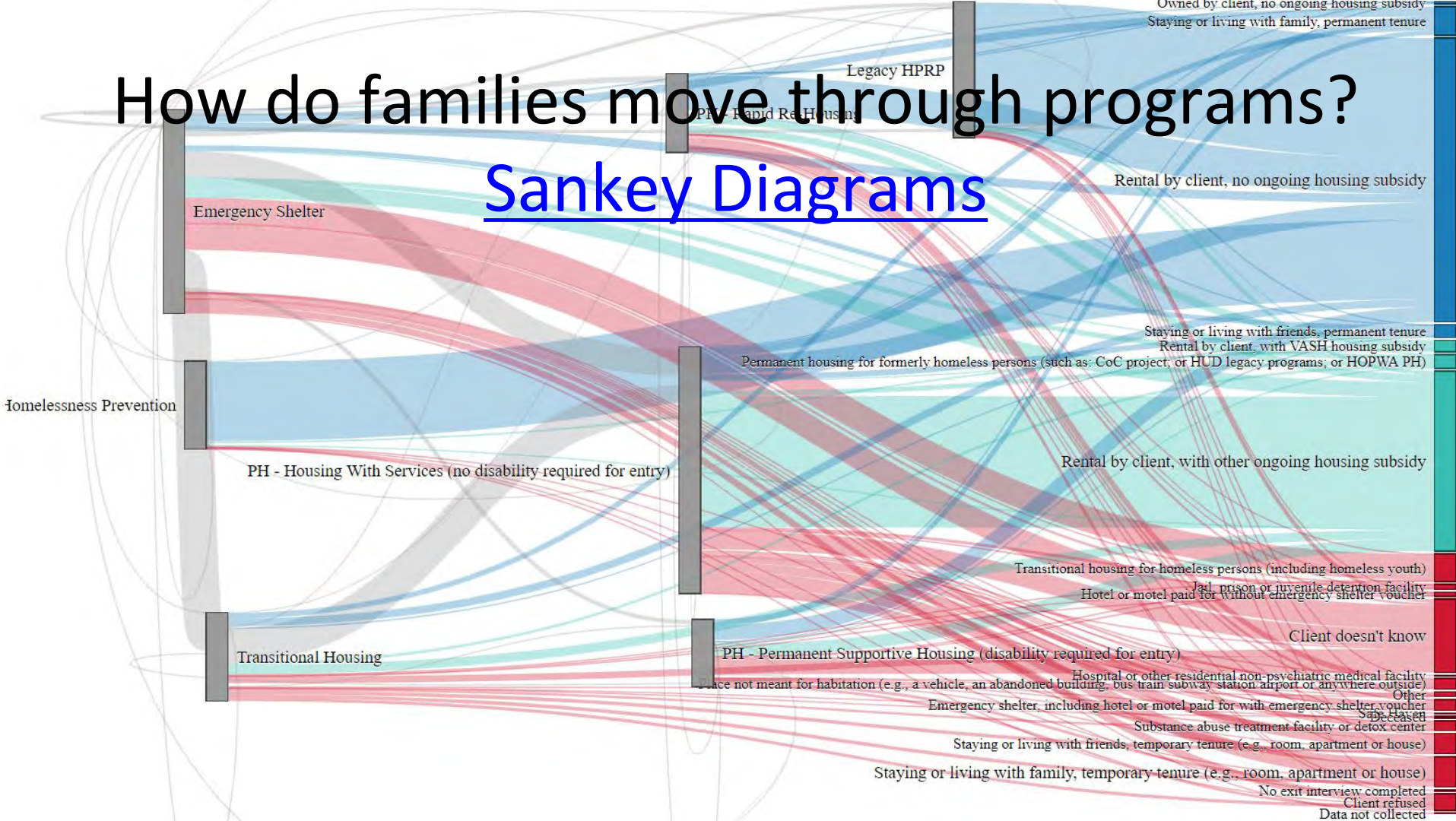
# How do families move through programs? : [Sankey Diagrams](#)



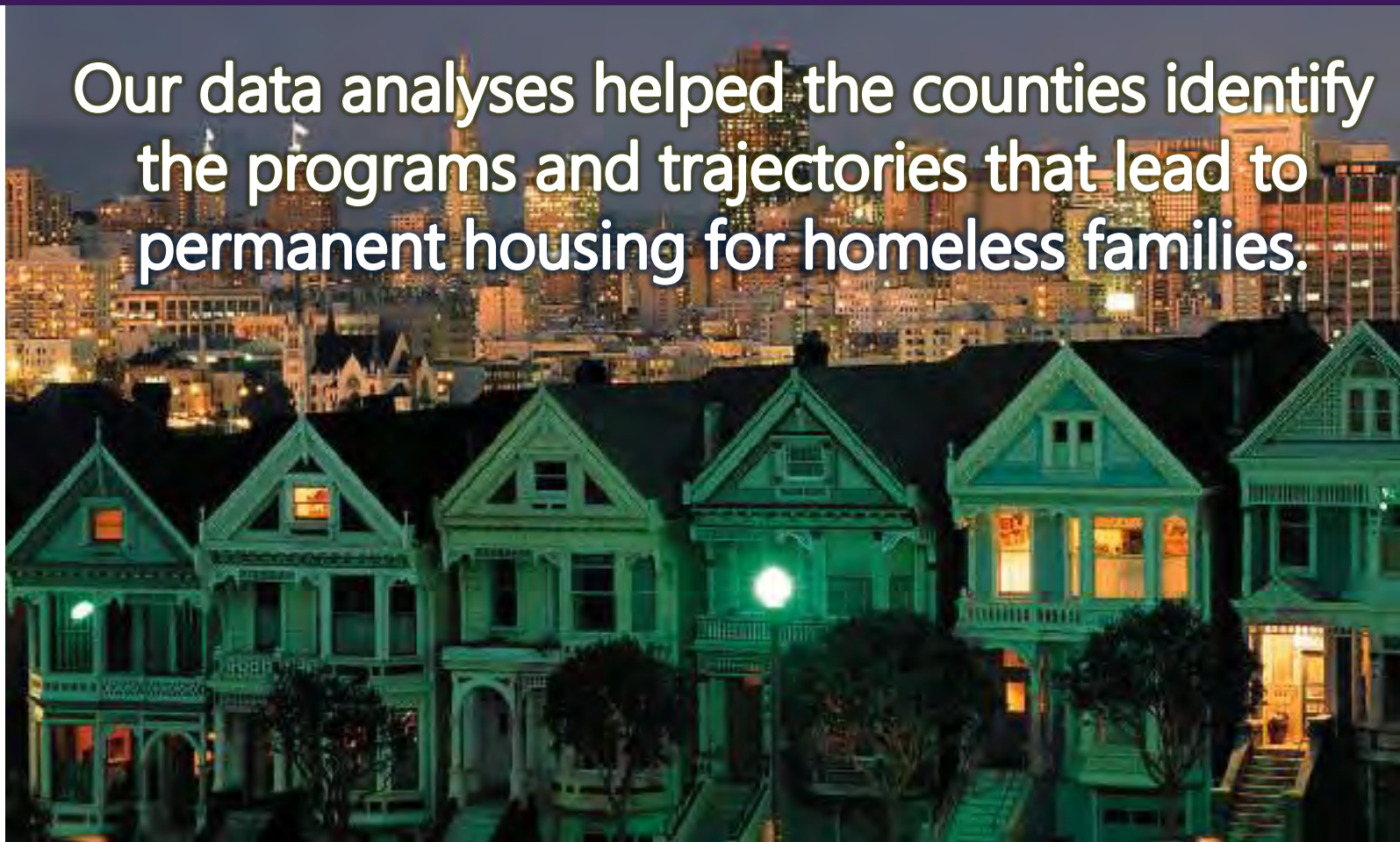


# How do families move through programs?

## Sankey Diagrams



Our data analyses helped the counties identify the programs and trajectories that lead to permanent housing for homeless families.





An aerial photograph of a densely packed urban area, likely San Francisco, showing a complex network of buildings, streets, and rooftops. The image is used as a background for the text.

Cities can be incredibly complex to navigate.

For many people, technology provides the  
information needed to get around.

# 54.5 million

People in the USA need assistive devices or have trouble walking more than a quarter mile.

---

U.S. Census Bureau, *Americans With Disabilities: 2010*,  
issued July 2012



# Kevin's Story

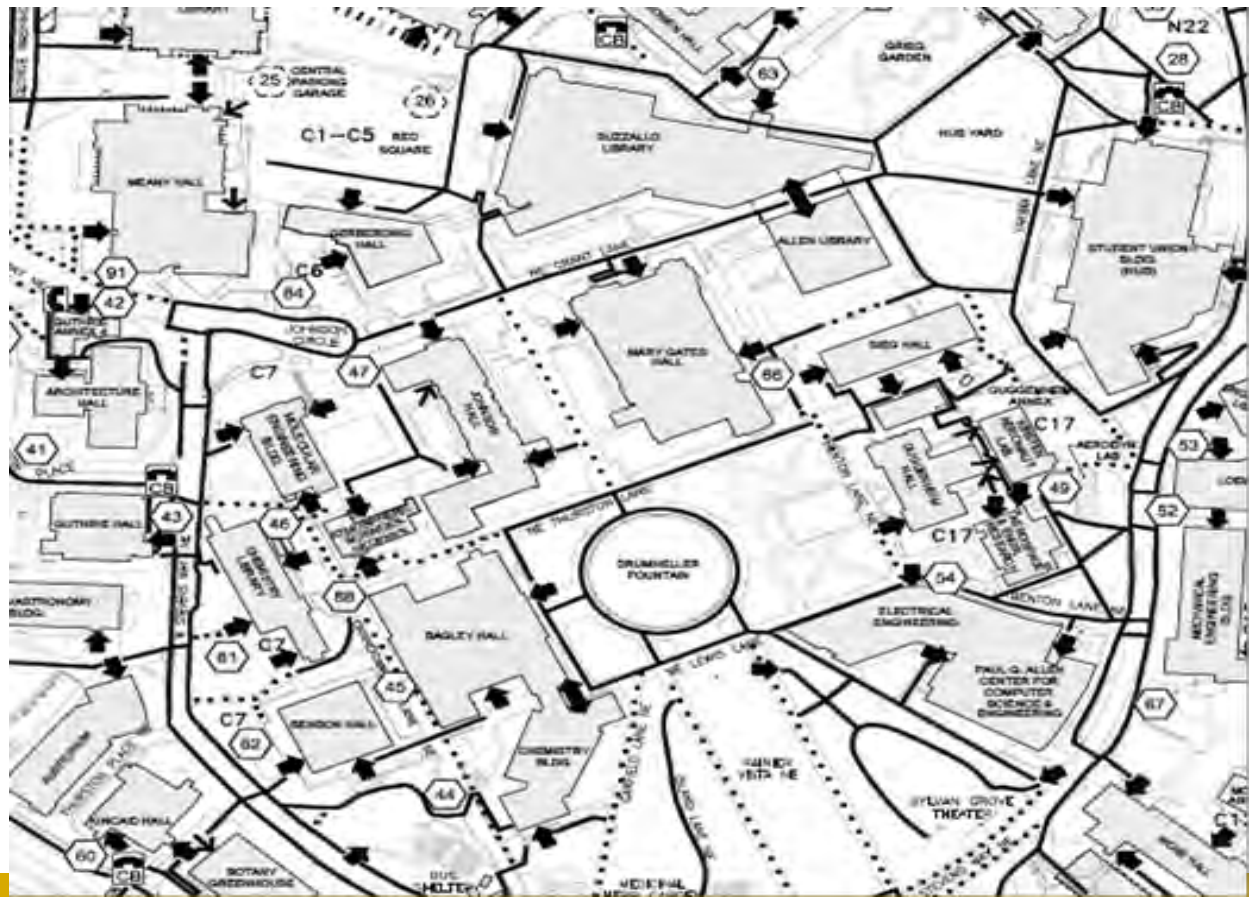
---

“Using a tool like directions on Google Maps doesn't really help me get around. Actually sometimes this does more harm than good. I'm sent down streets I can't cross, or up inclines that are impossible to climb. It can be deeply frustrating.”





- Cluttered
- Complex
- Out of date
- Non-editable
- Non-routable



# AccessMap

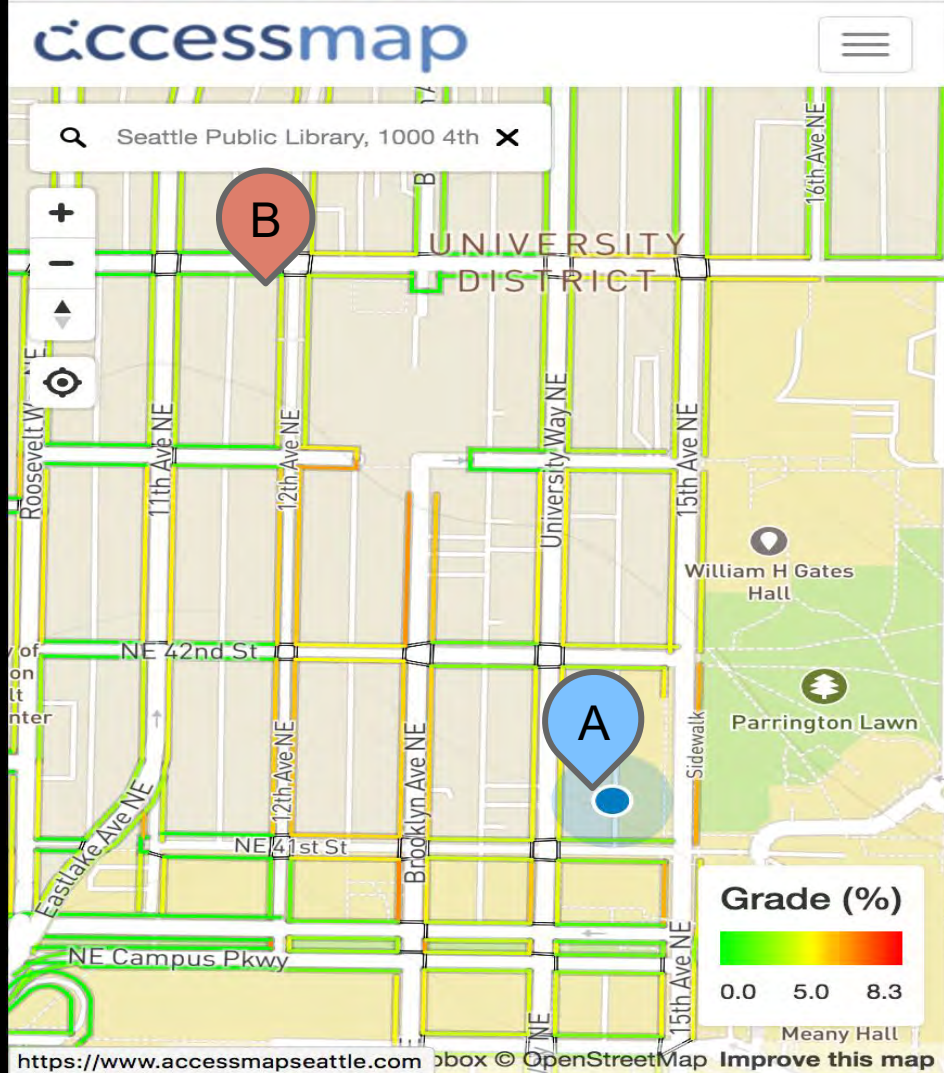
Seattle



# Trip Planning

I'm here, I want to get there.

What's the best way?





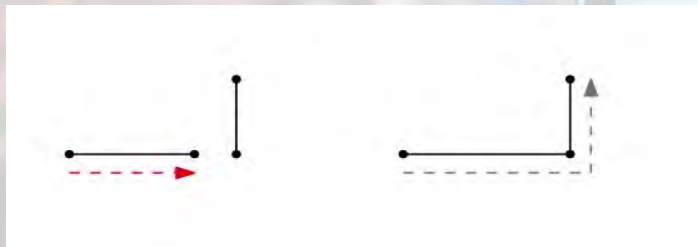
# AccessMap

## Seattle



GOAL: Add data for routing

Connect sidewalks



Find the best route



Incline:



+ Sidewalk lines

Construction:



[data.seattle.gov](https://data.seattle.gov)

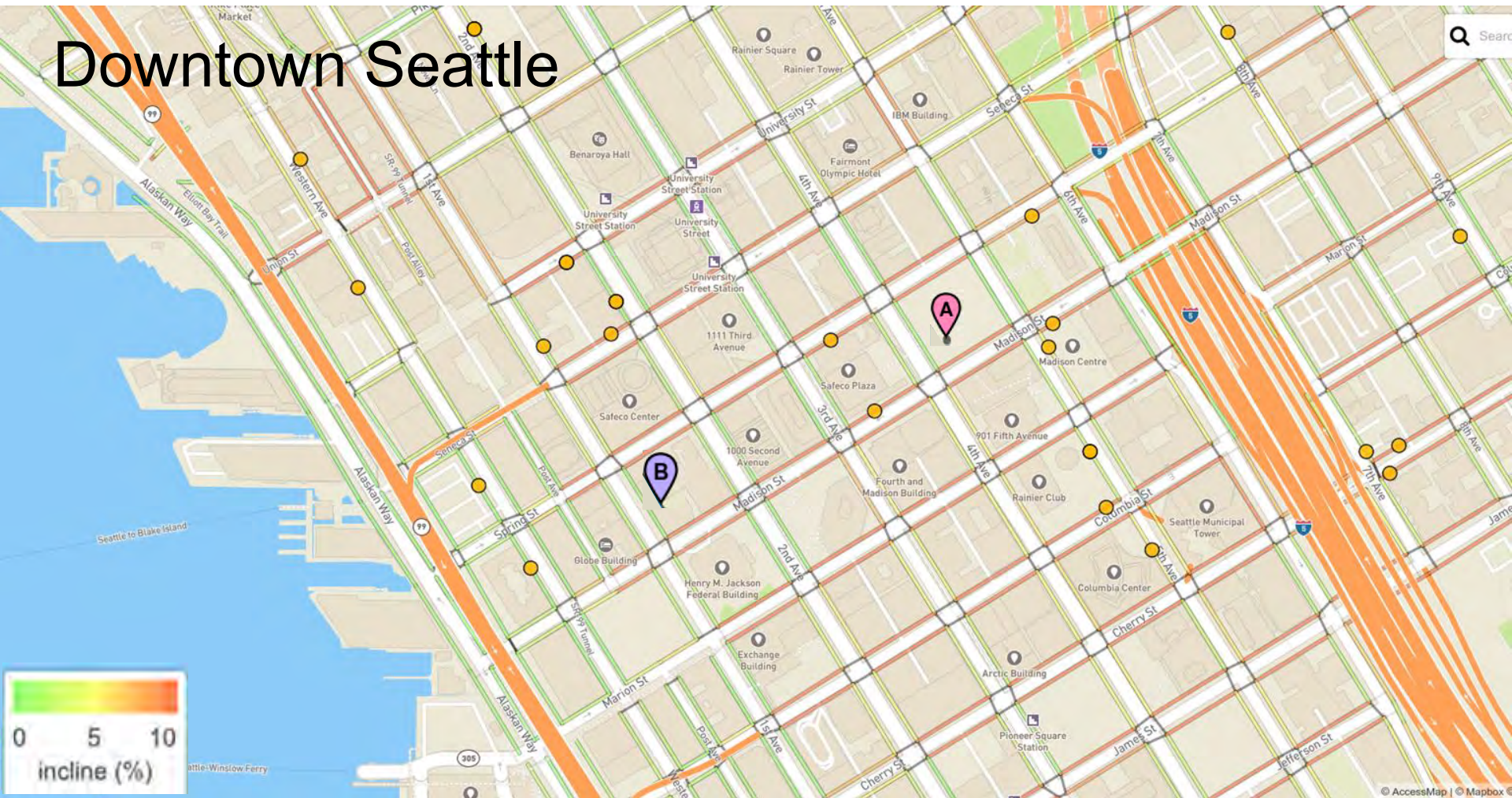
Permits

Curb ramps and crosswalks:

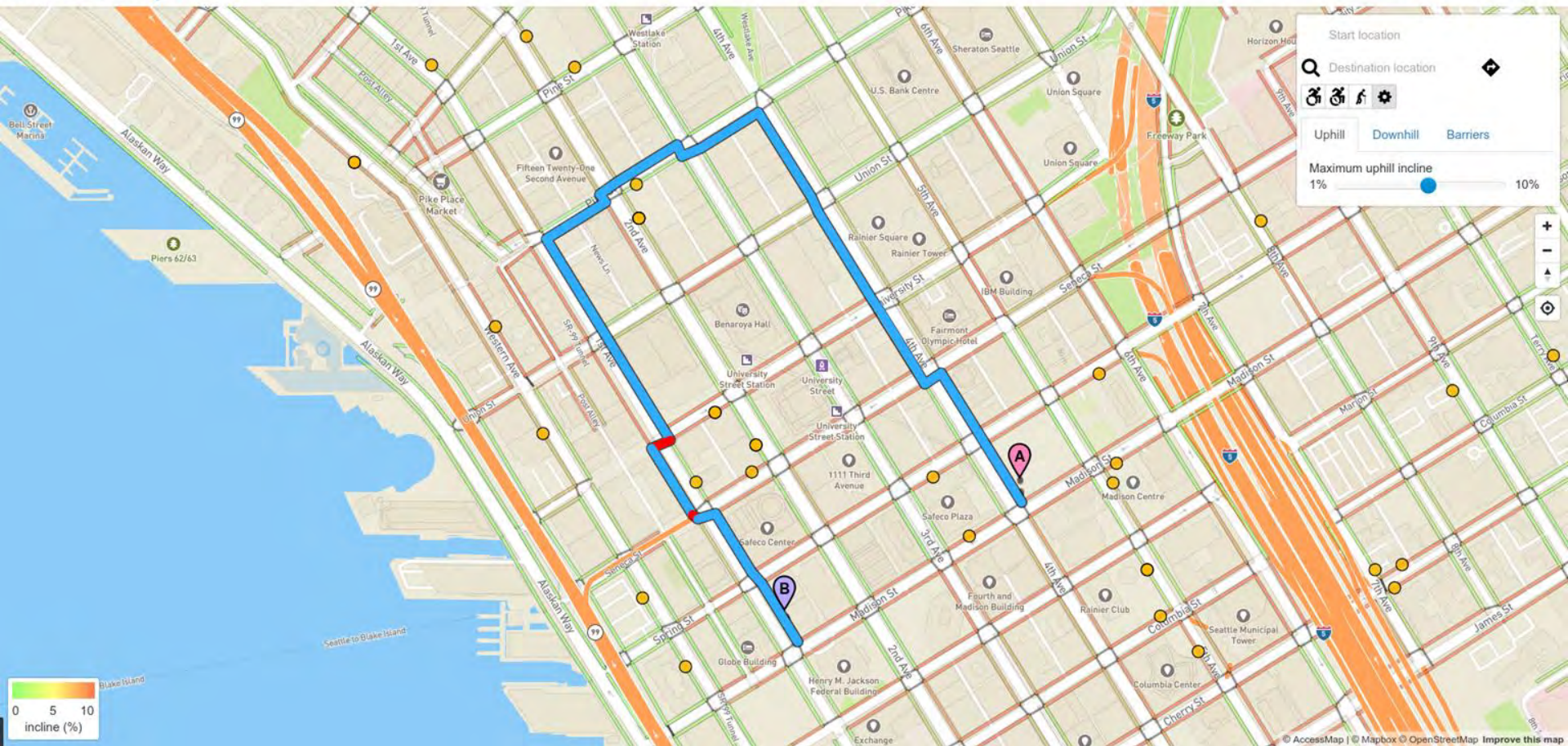


[data.seattle.gov](https://data.seattle.gov)

# Downtown Seattle







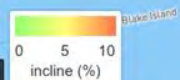
Start location

Destination location

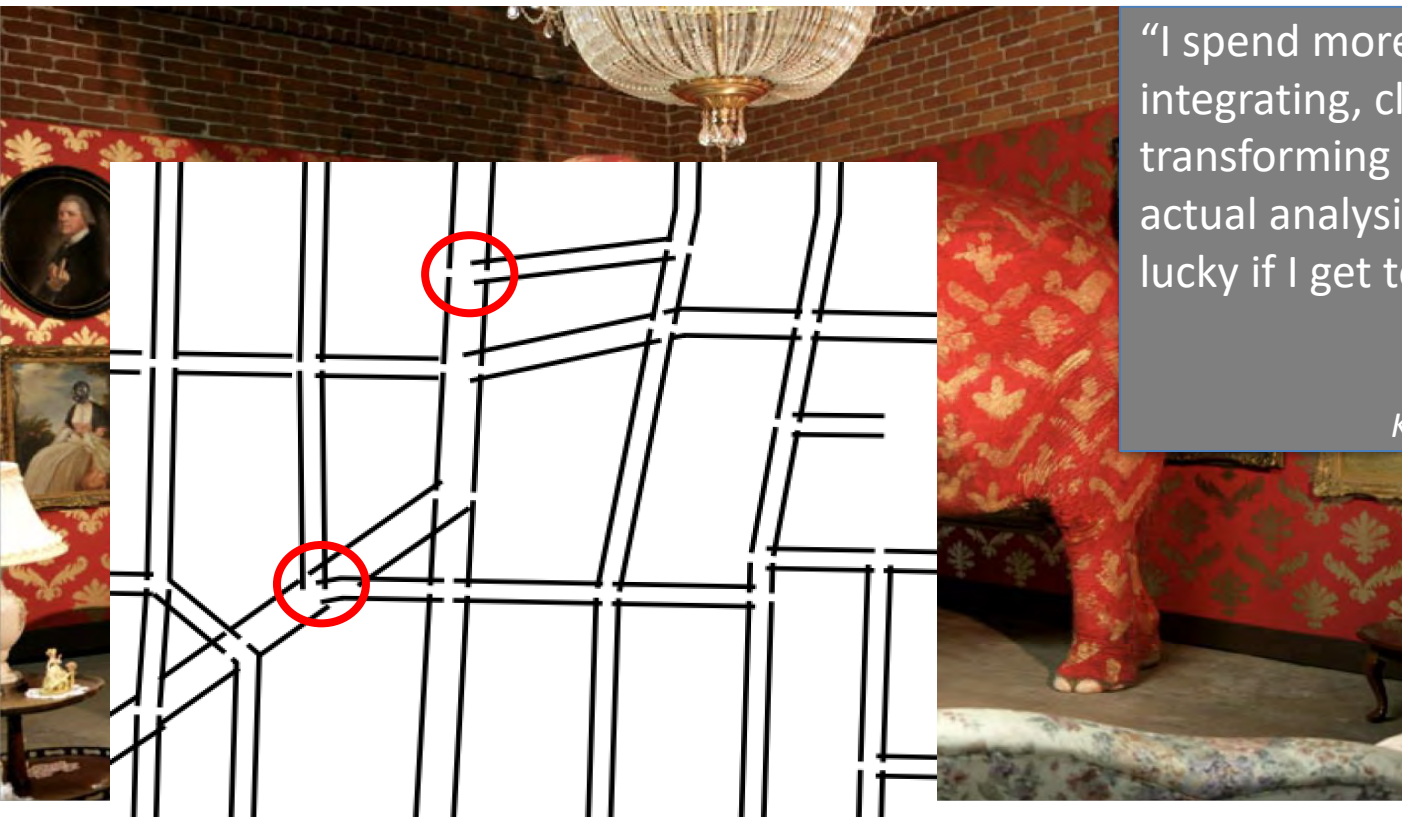
Uphill Downhill Barriers

Maximum uphill incline

1% 10%



# The Reality of Data Science



“I spend more than half of my time integrating, cleansing and transforming data without doing any actual analysis. Most of the time I’m lucky if I get to do any ‘analysis’ at all.”

Anonymous Data Scientist  
*Kandel et al. 2012 interview study*



## What I didn't talk about: Data, Responsibly



# The Seattle Times

Education | Education Lab | Local News | Transportation

## UW student project taps ORCA cards, unlocks data trove

Originally published August 19, 2016 at 10:21 am | Updated August 21, 2016 at 6:27 am

GeekWire

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## Could data help solve Seattle's transportation challenges?

BY CLARE MCGRANE on August 20, 2016 at 3:30 pm

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**Benjamin Romano**  
August 24th, 2015

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Posted Aug 26, 2016 by Devin Coldewey, Contributor

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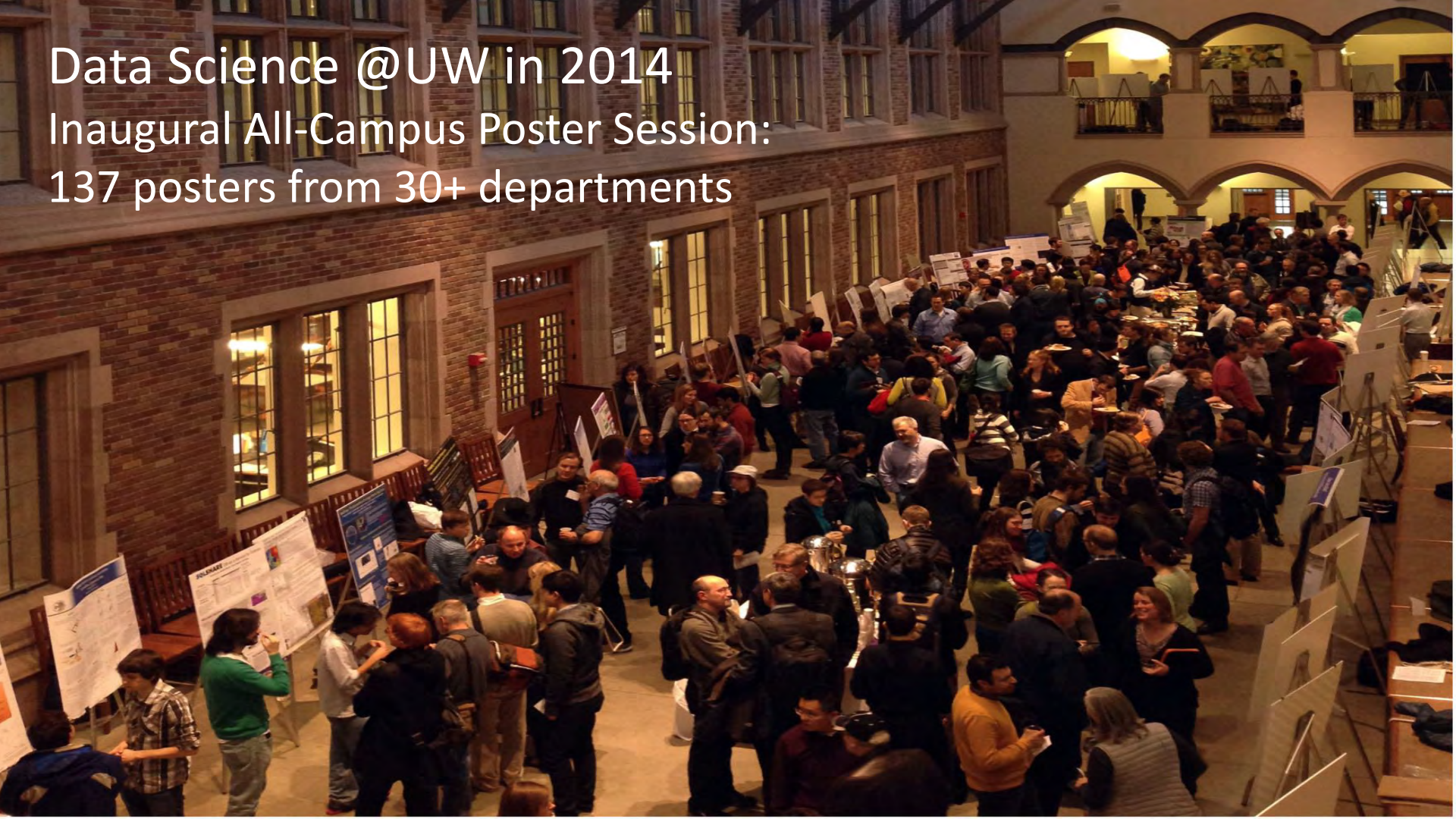
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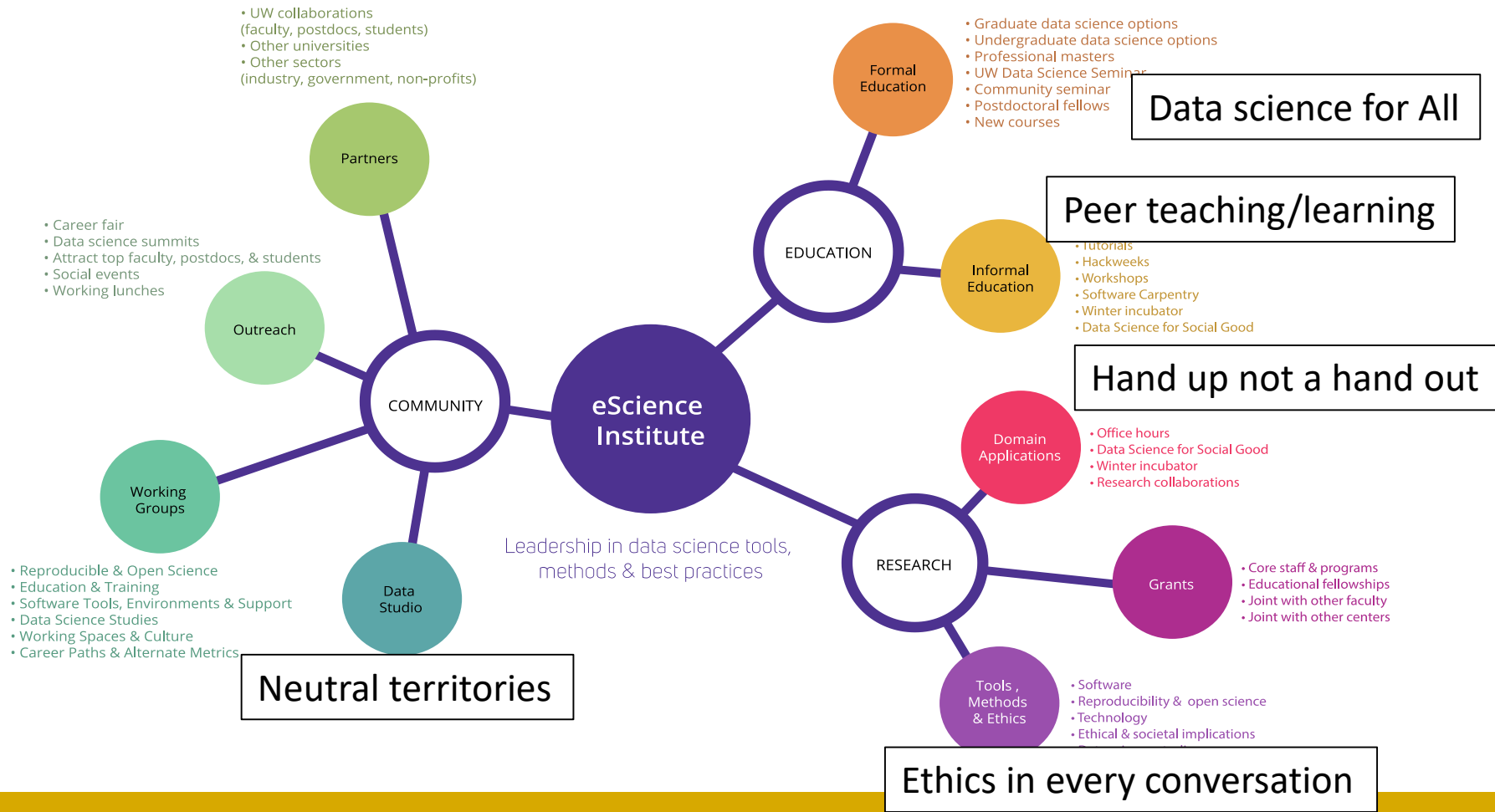


# Data Science @UW in 2014

## Inaugural All-Campus Poster Session: 137 posters from 30+ departments







## Data Science Institutes (in partnership with Libraries) as Catalysts and Leaders



- Lead the advancement in data science methodologies
- Lead the utilization of these methodologies in discovery
- Lead the creation of environments where data science can flourish

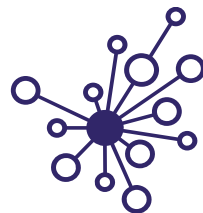
The “Switzerland” of data science on campus

# Thank You!

## Questions?

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[exec-director@escience.washington.edu](mailto:exec-director@escience.washington.edu)



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# Links

“Creating Institutional Change in Data Science” Chronicles of Higher Ed, Mar 2018  
([http://msdse.org/creating\\_institutional\\_change.html](http://msdse.org/creating_institutional_change.html))

“Hack Weeks as a model for Data Science Education and Collaboration”  
([arXiv:1711.00028](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.00028))

eScience Winter Incubator:  
<http://escience.washington.edu/get-involved/incubator-programs/overview/>

UW Data Science for Social Good:  
<http://escience.washington.edu/dssg/>